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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2020 No. 759**

**The Criminal Procedure Rules 2020**

**PART 18**

**MEASURES TO ASSIST A WITNESS OR DEFENDANT TO GIVE EVIDENCE**

*GENERAL RULES*

**Decisions and reasons**

**18.4.**—(1) A party who wants to introduce the evidence of a witness who is the subject of an application, direction or order must—

- (a) inform the witness of the court’s decision as soon as reasonably practicable; and
- (b) explain to the witness the arrangements that as a result will be made for him or her to give evidence.

(2) The court must—

- (a) promptly determine an application; and
- (b) allow a party sufficient time to comply with the requirements of—
  - (i) paragraph (1), and
  - (ii) the code of practice issued under section 32 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004<sup>(1)</sup>.

(3) The court must announce, at a hearing in public before the witness gives evidence, the reasons for a decision—

- (a) to give, make, vary or discharge a direction or order; or
- (b) to refuse to do so.

*[Note. See sections 20(5), 33A(8) and 33BB(4) of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 and sections 51(8) and 52(7) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003<sup>(2)</sup>.*

*Under section 32 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, the Secretary of State for Justice must issue a code of practice as to the services to be provided by specified persons to a victim of criminal conduct.]*

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(1) 2004 c. 28; section 32 was amended by article 8 of, and paragraph 10 of the Schedule to, S.I. 2007/2128.  
(2) 2003 c. 44.